

Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 IOE-00 EPG-02 AGR-01 USIE-00 AID-05 EB-07
EUR-12 COME-00 ISO-00 TRSE-00 SP-02 L-03 CIAE-00
INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-02 PRS-01 SSO-00 INRE-00 OIC-02
AF-10 ARA-14 EA-09 NEA-10 OMB-01 OES-07 /110 W
-----141600Z 064212 /41

O 141430Z JUN 77
FM AMEMBASSY ROME
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5278

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FODAG

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: FAO, OCON
SUBJECT: DIRECTOR-GENERAL'S SUMMATION ON AGENDA ITEM 16

REF: STATE 136690

FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF DIRECTOR-GENERAL'S STATEMENT. COMMENTS WILL FOLLOW.

QUOTE: YOU WILL NOT BE SURPRISED TO HEAR ME SAY THAT I AM VERY HAPPY WITH THIS DEBATE.

BUT I AM HAPPY NOT ONLY BECAUSE OF THE VERY CONSTRUCTIVE AND USEFUL VIEWS, COMMENTS AND SUGGESTIONS WHICH HAVE BEEN MADE -- AND TO WHICH I LISTENED WITH GREAT ATTENTION AND INTEREST - BUT ALSO BECAUSE OF THE HARMONY, THE NEAR CONSENSUS WHICH HAS BEEN EXPRESSED. IN FACT, I DO NOT RECALL SUCH A DEGREE OF HARMONY ABOUT THE GENERAL POLICIES AND THE PROGRAMME OF WORK AND BUDGET EXISTING IN THE PAST.

THIS HARMONY OF APPROACH, THIS CONSENSUS ON THE PROGRAMME OF WORK AND BUDGET, IS JUST WHAT I WAS STRIVING FOR WHEN - WITH RIGOUR AND IN SOME CASES EVEN SEVERITY TOWARDS THE VERY MANY SUGGESTIONS
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PUT BEFORE ME -- I WAS CONSTRUCTING THE PROPOSALS SET OUT IN THE SUMMARY PROGRAMME OF WORK AND BUDGET.

I WAS CONSCIOUS OF THE NEED TO MAKE THE PROGRAMME OF WORK AND BUDGET A TRUE REFLECTION OF THE NEW POLICIES YOU APPROVED LAST JULY AND OF THE NEEDS OF OUR TIME. YOU HAVE RECOGNIZED AND CONFIRMED THIS FAITHFUL APPROACH.

I WAS CAREFUL TO OBSERVE THE FINANCIAL FRAMEWORK WHICH I PROPOSED IN NOVEMBER LAST, IN RECOGNITION OF THE DIFFICULT FINANCIAL SITUATIONS IN WHICH MANY COUNTRIES, INCLUDING DEVELOPING COUNTRIES, FIND THEMSELVES. YOU HAVE NEARLY ALL ACCEPTED THAT AND I INTEND TO ADHERE TO IT.

I TRIED TO PAY FULL ATTENTION TO THE PROGRAMMES AND PRIORITIES ACTUALLY DESIRED BY MEMBER GOVERNMENTS AS EXPRESSED IN THE MANY RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE MAIN COUNCIL COMMITTEES AND REGIONAL CONFERENCES, WHILE PRESENTING A BALANCED AND REASONABLE PACKAGE. YOU AGREE THAT I HAVE DONE THIS. AT THE SAME TIME, YOU HAVE GIVEN ME THE BENEFIT OF YOUR EXPERIENCE AND YOUR APPRECIATION OF NATIONAL AND REGIONAL SITUATIONS IN SUGGESTING VARIOUS EMPHASES WHICH COULD BE APPLIED IN THE PROCESSES OF FINAL FORMULATION AND IMPLEMENTATION.

THERE WERE ONLY A FEW POINTS WHICH MIGHT CAUSE SOME DIFFICULTY. FOR EXAMPLE, THERE WERE THE SUGGESTIONS BY THE FRENCH DELEGATION FOR CUTTING CERTAIN PROGRAMMES, FOR WHICH I AM DULY GRATEFUL. TO HIM AND OTHERS, I WOULD POINT OUT THAT ON FAO REPRESENTATIVES, THE IMPLEMENTATION OF AN ESTABLISHMENT OF 47 IS ALREADY GRADUATED DURING 1978-79. IT WILL ONLY BE IN 1980-81 THAT THE FULL EFFECTS WILL BE FELT. THE FRENCH DELEGATION MAY PERHAPS NOTE THIS AND PREPARE FOR IT NOW.

ON INVESTMENT AND IFAD, I CANNOT AT THIS STAGE PREJUDICE THE OUTCOME OF NEGOTIATIONS WITH AMBASSADOR SUDEARY. BUT I CAN SAY THAT I CONSIDER IT TO BE ESSENTIAL FOR THE REGULAR PROGRAMME
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TO BE ABLE TO PROVIDE SUPPORT TO IFAD, JUST AS FAO HAS HITHERTO SUPPORTED ACTIVITIES IN ASSOCIATION WITH THE WORLD BANK AND THE REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT BANKS. I AM SURE THAT THE GREAT MAJORITY OF THE COUNCIL AGREE WITH THIS; AS INDEED WITH THE GENERAL CONCEPT THAT IFAD SHOULD USE FAO'S COMPETENCE AND FACILITIES TO THE GREATEST POSSIBLE EXTENT.

AS REGARDS AGRICULTURE: TOWARDS 2000, THERE WAS SOME FEELING IN THE PROGRAMME COMMITTEE THAT NOT ENOUGH RESOURCES WERE BEING PROVIDED. I CAN ALREADY FORESEE HAVING TO FIND SAVINGS TO COVER DOCUMENTATION COSTS AND HAVING TO CURB APPARENTLY INERADICABLE TENDENCIES TO EXPAND ITS SCOPE AND COST IN OTHER WAYS. THE DELEGATION OF CHINA, WHOSE WISE INTERVENTION WAS MOST INTERESTING AND INSTRUCTIVE--CAN BE SURE THAT I WILL DO MY BEST TO CONTROL THEORETICAL STUDIES AND DOCUMENTATION BUT I FRANKLY DO NOT SEE MUCH SCOPE FOR FURTHER CUTS AT THE PRESENT STAGE.

BEFORE SAYING SOMETHING ABOUT FAO REPRESENTATIVES AND THE TCP, I SHOULD LIKE TO REFER TO ANOTHER INTERESTING PROGRAMME POINT

RAISED BY THE USA. IT IS INDEED AN IMPORTANT SUBJECT. SOME 30 PERCENT OF THE WORLD'S EXPLOITABLE SOILS ARE USED FOR SHIFTING CULTIVATION, PROVIDING FOOD FOR SOME 250 MILLION PEOPLE IN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES. SHIFTING CULTIVATION IMPLIES THE CUTTING/ BURNING OF VEGETATION AND THE CULTIVATION OF FOOD CROPS.....
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NSAE-00 PA-02 PRS-01 SSO-00 INRE-00 OIC-02 AF-10
ARA-14 EA-09 NEA-10 OMB-01 OES-07 ISO-00 /110 W
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CROPS
FOR 2-3 YEARS, UNTIL THE SOIL FERTILITY IS EXHAUSTED, AND THE SITE IS ABANDONED.

FORTUNATELY, OVER THE YEARS, TECHNIQUES HAVE BEEN EVOLVED THAT PERMIT THE PRODUCTION OF FOOD AT THE SAME TIME AND ON THE SAME AREA AS PERMANENT FOREST CROPS, THROUGH SYSTEMS WHICH HAVE COME TO BE KNOWN AS "AGRI-SILVICULTURE". THESE SYSTEMS, HOWEVER, NEED TO BE IMPROVED AND BETTER ADAPTED TO THE SPECIFIC NEEDS OF COUNTRIES AND SUB-REGIONS.

THE ACTIVITIES PROGRAMMED IN THIS AREA COME UNDER THE OVERALL PROGRAMME OF FORESTRY'S CONTRIBUTION TO RURAL DEVELOPMENT AND WILL BE IMPLEMENTED THROUGH AND IN CLOSE COOPERATION WITH NATIONAL INSTITUTIONS. MORE INFORMATION CAN BE PROVIDED ON THIS IN DUE COURSE IF THE US DELEGATION WISHES.

I HAVE NOTED WHAT HAS BEEN SAID ABOUT NUTRITION AND CODES AND I AM GLAD TO SEE THAT HONOURABLE DELEGATES THINK WE ARE NOW FINALLY ON THE RIGHT PATH.

AS REGARDS FAO REPRESENTATIVES AND THE TCP, I HAVE BEEN IMPRESSED BY THE MOST CONSTRUCTIVE AND REASONABLE APPROACH ON ALL

SIDES - FROM THOSE WHO HAD SOME RESERVATIONS AND, AT THE OTHER
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EXTREME, FROM THOSE WHO THINK MY PROPOSALS ARE TOO MODEST.

IT WAS GRATIFYING THAT WHAT WAS SAID IN MY OPENING STATEMENT
WAS CAREFULLY NOTED AND APPROVED. I MEAN WHAT I SAID AND I HOPE
TO RECEIVE AN APPROPRIATE RESPONSE FROM NEW YORK AS WELL AS ON THE
GROUND. MOREOVER, DELEGATES ON ALL SIDES HAD FURTHER WISE
THINGS TO SAY YESTERDAY ABOUT RELATIONSHIPS WITH UNDP, WHICH
I THINK HAVE IMPRESSED DELEGATIONS AS WELL AS MYSELF.

ON THE QUESTION OF THE TCP, A SORT OF SKELETON REPORT HAS
ALREADY BEEN ISSUED -- INF/7. I SHALL BE HAPPY TO UP-DATE
THIS FOR NOVEMBER.

AS FOR AN EVALUATION, I HAVE NOTED CAREFULLY WHAT HAS BEEN SAID.
I STILL ADHERE TO THE VIEW - WHICH APPLIES ALSO TO UNDP PROJECTS -
THAT ULTIMATELY THE ONLY FORM OF EVALUATION WHICH WILL BE
ACCEPTABLE IS ONE WHICH RESPECTS THE RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE
MEMBER NATIONS DIRECTLY INVOLVED IN SELECTING AND IMPLEMENTING
PROJECTS. I ALSO FEEL THAT WE CANNOT EMBARK ON AN EVALUATION
WITH A SELECTIVE AND THEORETICALLY SUBJECTIVE APPROACH, SUCH
AS WHETHER OR NOT THE SAME RESULTS MIGHT HAVE BEEN ACHIEVED
BY USING SOME OTHER HYPOTHETICALLY AVAILABLE SOURCE OF FUNDS.
IN ANY CASE, I THINK IT WOULD ALSO BE VERY DIFFICULT TO FIND
GENUINELY "INDEPENDENT" EVALUATORS OR REALLY EXPERT "EXPERTS" WHO
COULD SATISFY ALL THE MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL AND CONFERENCE OF
THEIR UNDERSTANDING OF AGRICULTURAL OPERATIONS AND LOCAL SITUATIONS
IN COUNTRIES, AS WELL AS THEIR REAL OBJECTIVITY ON THE JUSTIFICATION
FOR THE TCP.

ON THE OTHER HAND, I DO RECOGNIZE THE NEED TO JUSTIFY THE EXPEN-
DITURES ON THE TCP IN TERMS OF ADHERENCE TO APPROVED CRITERIA
AND PROCEDURES AND EFFECTIVENESS. I WILL THEREFORE NOW CONSIDER
WHAT WOULD BE THE BEST WAY TO SET UP A SATISFACTORY EVALUATION
PROCESS WHICH COULD PROVIDE A SUITABLE REPORT TO THE COUNCIL
IN 1978. LET ME SAY AGAIN, MR. CHAIRMAN, HOW PLEASED AND GRATEFUL
I AM FOR THE GENEROUSLY CONSTRUCTIVE RESPONSE ON ALL SIDES TO MY
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PROPOSALS AND FOR THE VERY USEFUL COMMENTS AND ADVICE, WHICH I
WILL TAKE INTO ACCOUNT AND WHICH ENABLE ME SUCCESSFULLY TO
COMPLETE THE FULL PROGRAMME OF WORK AND BUDGET IN THE NEXT FEW
WEEKS.

FINALLY, THERE IS THE QUESTION OF THE BUDGET LEVEL. THE GREAT MAJORITY OF YOU ACCEPTED IT AS NECESSARY AND REASONABLE. ONLY ONE DELEGATION SUGGESTED THAT IT SHOULD BE CUT. A FEW OTHERS WERE STILL UNDECIDED, PENDING THE OPPORTUNITY TO STUDY THE FULL PROGRAMME OF WORK AND BUDGET.

I HOPE, AND IN FACT I THINK, THAT THE LATTER DELEGATIONS WILL BE ABLE, IN THE LIGHT OF THIS DEBATE AND OF THE FURTHER INFORMATION THEY WILL OBTAIN FROM THE FULL PROGRAMME OF WORK AND BUDGET, TO RESOLVE ANY DOUBTS OR HESITATIONS WHICH MAY NOW HAVE ABOUT THE BUDGET LEVEL; AND THAT ACCORDINGLY, IN THE 72ND SESSION OF THE COUNCIL AND IN THE CONFERENCE ITSELF, WE WILL REACH THE CONSENSUS WHICH I AND, IN FACT, ALL OF YOU PREFER. INDEED, SINCE THERE WAS UNANIMITY, HOWEVER UNENTHUSIASTIC, ON THE BUDGET LEVEL AT THE LAST CONFERENCE. I DARE TO HOPE THAT THERE WILL BE A GENUINE AND WARM UNANIMITY AT THE FORTHCOMING CONFERENCE. THANK YOU. END OF TEXT UNQUOTE.
GARDNER

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